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# Wilhelm von Boldensele

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**Wilhelm von Boldensele** (c. 1285 – 1338/39), born **Otto of Nygenhusen**, was a [German friar](#), [knight](#) and [pilgrim](#) from [Saxony](#). He visited [Egypt](#), the [Sinai Peninsula](#) and the [Levant](#) and wrote an account of his travels in [Latin](#), *Liber de quibusdam ultramarinis partibus et praecipue de Terra sancta*.

A friar prior to his pilgrimage, Otto took the name William upon leaving the [Dominican Order](#). He traveled to the eastern Mediterranean under [Papal](#) auspices between 1332 and 1336. He was probably on a reconnaissance mission for a future [crusade](#) as much as a religious pilgrimage. On his way east he stopped in [Constantinople](#), [Chios](#), [Rhodes](#), [Cyprus](#) and possibly [Athens](#). He met the [Byzantine emperor Andronikos III](#), who entrusted to him a letter for the sultan of Egypt.<sup>[1]</sup> In 1333 he records [Jews](#) regularly visiting graves in [Jerusalem](#), and mentions the natural cave (Grotto of Gethsemane) in the [Gethsemane](#) where [Jesus](#) and his disciples retreated to pray after the [Last Supper](#). In Jerusalem he was knighted into the [Order of the Holy Sepulchre](#). He describes the [Giza pyramids](#) in 1335, recording the inscription left behind in memory of the 2nd century AD Roman senator [Decimus Terentius Gentianus](#) by his sister Terentia.<sup>[2]</sup>












[Ludolf von Sudheim](#), who traveled east in 1336–1341, made use of Wilhelm's account and later added to it.<sup>[1]</sup>

## References

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- ↑ <sup>***a***</sup> <sup>***b***</sup> [Kazhdan, Alexander](#), ed. (1991). "Boldensele, Wilhelm Von". *The Oxford Dictionary of Byzantium*. Oxford and New York: Oxford University Press. ISBN 0-19-504652-8.
- ↑ [Plant, Ian Michael](#) (2004). *Women Writers of Ancient Greece and Rome: An Anthology*. University of Oklahoma Press. pp. 155–56. ISBN 0-8061-3622-7.

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